Prairie Fire

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POTASH DEALS THREATEN FARMERS

Ontario farmers will be advised to boycott Saskatchewan potash if Premier Thatcher gets his way and is allowed to establish the floor price on potash that he announced recently.

Ontario Agriculture Minister W. A. Stewart said last week that the move by Thatcher would cost Ontario farmers more than $1 million a year in higher fertilizer prices.

Mr. Stewart said he would advise farmers to buy potash from Europe in an attempt to fight the price boost in the Saskatchewan product.

Thatcher has said that producers of Saskatchewan potash will probably not be allowed to sell their product at less than $18.75. This is almost $8 more than some of the companies operating in Saskatchewan have been charging.

Premier Thatcher was in Ottawa meeting with Trudeau at press time and could not be reached for comment.

It appears that Thatcher was forced into his present position because the American-owned producers in Saskatchewan have been competing so fiercely with each other and with producers in New Mexico that some companies in both countries have been unable to maintain high profits.

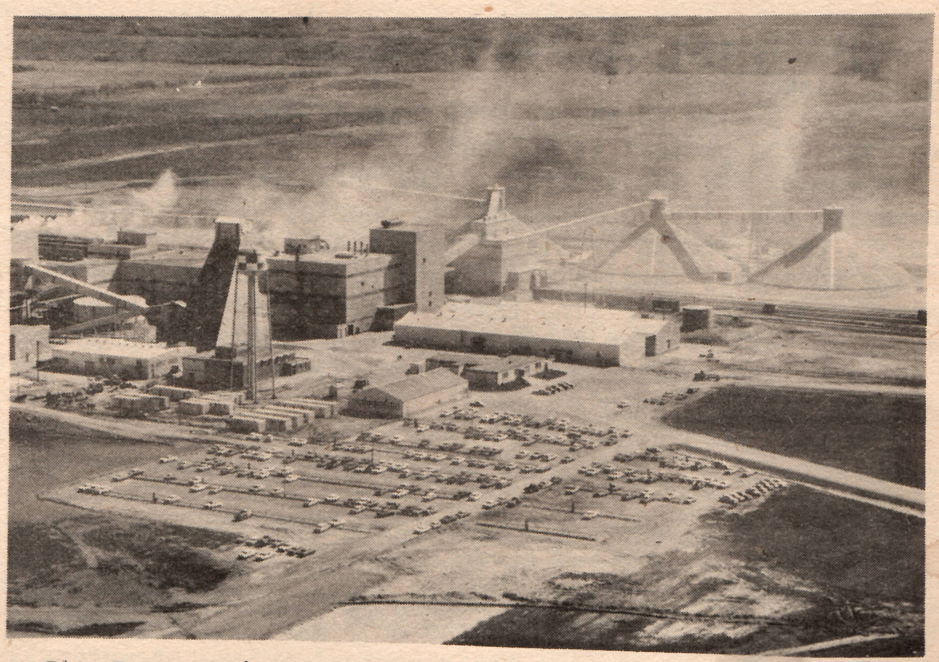
Thatcher said the floor price was necessary to avert a threatened tariff in the U.S. on potash imports to that country.

Thatcher's floor price and his scheme to regulate production levels (in total and for each company) amount to running a monopoly system for the companies. They end price competition, but with all the advantages going to the established producers.

Thatcher claims his new measures will save jobs in Saskatchewan, though it is unlikely that jobs were ever threatened by the tariff. On the other hand, his monopoly scheme will:

a) threaten jobs in the province, since the overall production limits will force some companies to lay mine workers off; and

b) make it more difficult for the Canadian- or partly-Canadian-owned potash companies just now beginning to produce to survive, since newer companies always tend to suffer from a stabilization of markets.



The International Minerals and Chemical Corporation potash mine at Esterhazy. IMC, responsible for vigorous price-cutting on the North American potash market, indirectly precipitated Premier Thatcher's decision to regulate the industry for the potash producers in Saskatchewan. Now, however, the Ontario Department of Agriculture is warning Thatcher that his plan will hurt farmers in that region.

RETAIL SALES DROP

Amid concern in some labour circles that Saskatchewan is heading into a depression, retail sales in every month of this year have compared unfavourably with last year.

According to statistics from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Saskatchewan Merchants' Association, retail sales this year have exceeded last year's levels in only one of the 10 months so far.

In the first 8 months of 1969, retail sales were $674.9 million, a drop of $19.4 million from sales of $694.3 in the first 8 months of 1968, according to DBS.

According to estimates from the Retail Merchants' Assn., sales for October, 1969, were $103.5 million, only $.3 million ($300,000) above sales for October, 1968. For September, 1969, sales were $105.5 million, $11.7 million below sales for September, 1968.

The Retail Merchants' figures are more complete than those which DBS compiles, since DBS does not include sales of lumber, restaurants and implements. Thus DBS figures are lower than those from the Retail Merchants.

The Retail Merchants estimated $103.2 million in sales for October, 1968, whereas DBS has the figure at $93.9 million. The Retail Merchants estimated September, 1968, sales at $117.2 million, while DBS had them at $82.2 million.

Even though the figures from the two sources are not strictly comparable, they both illustrate the same trend: the purchasing power which consumers have has been down throughout 1969.

COURT ACTION POSSIBLE

Court action under the Co-operative Associations Act may be the only method remaining for members of Sherwood Co-op to get a special membership meeting.

Last week, Norman B. Kennedy, President of the Board of Directors of Sherwood, announced that the executive of the Board will recommend to the Board that it not call a special meeting as requested by the petitions to the office.

Late last month, the Committee of Concerned Co-operators (CCC) presented a second petition to the Board asking that the meeting be called. The CCC is a group of Sherwood members which was formed in September mainly as a result of concern over the strike by Co-op employees.

The strike ended in the last week of October, after seven weeks.

Both CCC petitions requested a special general membership meeting, which can be called only by the Board of Directors. The special meeting was to deal with how the Co-op Board had managed Sherwood during the strike; the financial effect of the strike; the effect of Sherwood's relations with Federated Co-op on democratic operations in Sherwood; Sherwood's labour relations policy, and why the first petition was refused.

The Board informed the CCC last Thursday of its decision not to call the meeting. In a letter from Mr. Kennedy, the Board argued that the petition did not meet requirements outlined in the Co-op Act.

The decision was reached after the Board had consulted with lawyers. The second petition was turned down, Mr. Kennedy said, because none "of the matters requested to be dealt with fall within the requirements of Section 57 of the Co-op Act."

Sect. 57 outlines the procedures to be taken for the calling of special meetings by members.

Mr. Kennedy said that according to the Act, "there should be some specific action of conclusion to the meeting." CCC members claim to have followed all the procedures in preparing the petition.

One CCC member stated that the Court will probably be the one to decide if the petition falls within the requirements of the Act.

CCC members had expressed hope that court action would not be necessary. They had hoped the Board would respond to the requests of the members to have a meeting.

The two meetings of the CCC had attendance of close to 400 each, the largest turnouts of Co-op members in many years.

* EDITORIAL: *

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE ?

The year is 1975, the scene is a protest demonstration in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Due to a by-law passed by City Council prohibiting demonstrations, the protest is illegal.

The reason for the protest is the unresponsiveness of the Provincial and city governments to peoples' needs --in particular, a continuing crisis of inflation.

Wage controls, anti-strike legislation, cutbacks in government spending and rising taxes --the traditional means of solving inflation--have served only to heighten the problems of workers, the growing numbers of unemployed, farmers, and those who live on fixed incomes.

Local law enforcement officials, for some time prior to the demonstration, have been emphasizing the need for "Law and Order."

Due to frustrations that have built up over a number of years, the people affected by the continuing crisis have become more and more militant. Having been ignored for a long time, people have decided that the only way to achieve their legitimate needs is to take their protest to the streets --a march on the Legislature.

But the demonstrators are met by a cordon of Police and are quickly dispersed with sophisticated chemical irritants and other "modern" "riot control" devices.

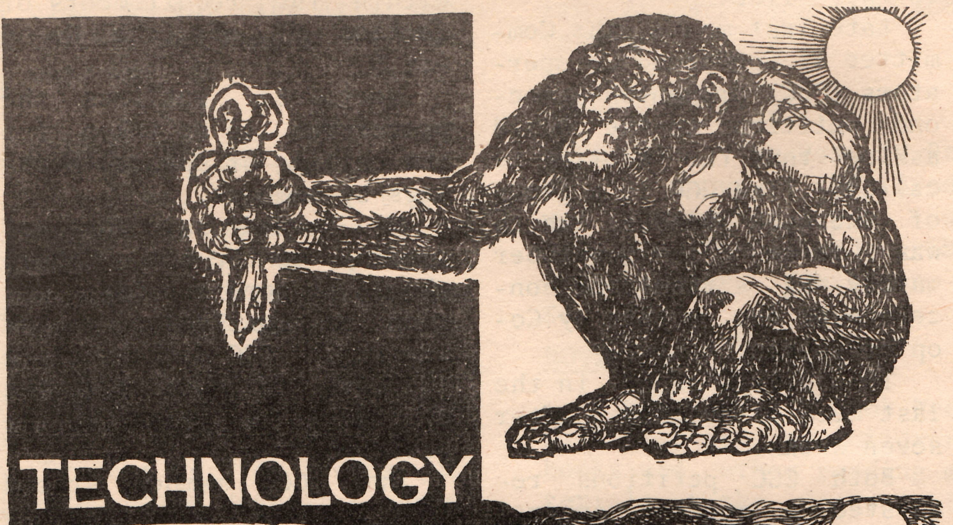
These weapons have been developed over the years by the Canadian Defence Research Board (DRB).

It had been known for most of these years that the activities of the DRB included designing and testing more and more powerful "crowd incapacitators." But everyone had assumed that *they* would never be in a crowd like this one, that *they* would never be the target of these devices. Everyone had assumed that there *must* be some good reason for all this high-powered research by the country's biggest "brains."

Now, however, there were tens of thousands of these normal citizens out in the streets, protesting conditions which had finally become too unbearable even for them.

People had accepted the DRB, even though they had watched on their TV sets while the same agents now used against them had been turned on the Vietnamese in the 1960's and then, in later years, on guerrillas in Thailand, in Brazil, in Guatemala, in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and dissidents in the U.S. itself.

Few people had foreseen that these new weapons would or could be used against "normal" Canadian citizens.



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This week's PRAIRIE FIRE analyzes the Canadian Defence Research Establishment and the research contributions which Canadian universities provide to the DRB.

Why have we bothered to examine this agency?

Research in chemical and biological warfare (CBW) in Canada is labelled "defensive," but this is grossly misleading. Almost all experiments done on "purely defensive" aspects of CBW weaponry can readily and easily be turned to offensive purposes. Knowledge of how soldiers or civilians will be affected by certain CBW agents or of how these agents can be defended against is crucial to the ability to deploy CBW agents against others. Research on how CBW agents are carried--by air, by sprays, by other organisms, etc.--is not limited in its value to defence: it, too, is vital to offensive capabilities for the agents.

In any case, the development and use of CBW agents has clearly been outlawed by international convention. These weapons, increasingly sophisticated, are more and more deadly and dangerous every year. Why does Canada continue with research in this area when it is morally bound never to use such weapons?

Research in CBW and other modern weapons systems--the whole gamut of super-technological "goodies" which militarists and scientists have dreamed up to inhabit our nightmares--is said to be in the interest of preserving peace and international law and order. But what of the effect of this research--the mounting armaments and research race in all areas of weaponry, the pressures to use what a nation has developed, the dangers of accidental war, the provocation to other nations which cannot help but result from all this scientific and military activity?

Finally, how do Canadians justify the fact that their whole defence establishment--research included--is ultimately directed by the needs of United States military policy? How do we justify this, knowing what we do about the aggressiveness of U.S. policy, about the U.S. being regarded throughout the world as the major reactionary power? Even if the research carried out by the DRB were truly "defensive," were not immoral, and did not create more danger than it is supposed to eliminate -- even if these conditions were met, do we not care at all about the purposes to which our scientific developments are put?

Canadians should not be misled about the true nature of the research which the DRB carries out. They should face squarely the implications which it has for the future. They should consider their priorities -- is "defence" research a rational use of moneys which people badly need in an inflated and often impoverished economy?

Perhaps the fantasy about how Canadians will finally confront the fruits of all this research in the year 1975 is just a fantasy. Perhaps not.

THE PRAIRIE FIRE

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RESERVATION SYSTEM DOES NOT SERVE INDIAN'S NEEDS

This home on the Okanese Reserve is new, but the occupants have left the Reserve in order to find jobs.

North and east of Regina some 85 miles, on the far side of the Qu'Appelle Valley, is the File Hills Indian Agency.

File Hills consists of four Indian bands, ranging in size from Peepeekasis, with some 500 members, to Okanese, the smallest, with about 280. The other two bands are Black Bear and Star Blanket.

During two visits to the area, Bill Creeley, who served as councillor and chief on Okanese for a number of years, provided the following information.

In 1945, when Bill came back to the reserve from overseas, via Deer Lodge Military Hospital, about 400 band members lived on the Okanese reserve. Few band members lived elsewhere.

Today there are about 280 band members. Of these, 59 live on the reserve, with a family of 9 leaving in the near future. The rest of the band who have not given up their band rights are scattered from Drayton Valley in Alberta to Winnipeg.

There are 24 homes on the reserve; 10 of these are lived in. Although Indian Affairs builds new homes on the reserve, for the whole agency, many of these, perhaps most, seem destined to be sitting empty, with the people living elsewhere. One new house visited and photographed has been lived in two months. Every window was smashed. Floor tile was loose and warped. Deterioration was underway.

Young people are not staying and will not be staying on the reserve; they will be where the jobs are, elsewhere. Almost all the adults would like to leave the reserve. There is simply no way to make a living. In five years, few will remain.

Okanese is nine miles by two-and-a-half. Of its 22½ sections, 9 are cultivated with five sections in crop this year. About 60 of these acres are farmed by one Indian, who uses borrowed machinery. All the rest is leased by white farmers, almost all by one man. The band is paid one-third of the crop, but the Indians tend to suspect declared low yields, especially when they have, in the past, seen that the books showed neighboring private farms to have far higher declared yields.

Over half this year's crop is uncombined in the fields, either standing or lying in swaths. Band granaries are fulll; grain is piled in the fields.

Grain was sold in July. None of this year's crop has moved. The money for the July sale, some $900, is in Ottawa.

Two sections of fenced pasture feed eight horses. Efforts to have Indian Affairs advance money to stock it with a cattle herd have failed.

Every cent of individual income on the reserve this year has come from government payments of one variety or another, with three minor exceptions. Three young men have received some wages for house-building; the chief and two councillors get wages of $35 monthly, each; six men picked roots and rocks for the renter for a couple of weeks this spring. All other money has come from working--elsewhere.

The people need flour; they have thousands of bushels of wheat. They are not allowed to have their wheat ground at a flour mill, but are informed that government relief is designed to take care of flour needs. Relief assistance is far from generous. Relief for a single man is in goods amounting to $15 every two weeks --$30 a month.

One immediate reason people have to move to the city is that welfare there assists them more than on the reserve. Payments in the city are in cash, whereas on the reserve they often consisted of stipulated orders of flour, bacon, tea, lard, beans, etc.

For people leaving the reserve, housing is a number one problem. Indian Affairs will not build off the reserve, nor will they allow good new homes to be moved to neighboring villages or urban centres. New houses depreciate unprotected, while people abandon them to crowd into inferior quarters in the cities. What choice do they have?

On the other three reserves of the File Hills Agency the same general problems seem to prevail, although conditions vary somewhat from band to band.

Black Bear, for example, sold half their reserve land, 18 sections, bought cattle and started a piggery. Also, they have an allotment scheme in effect for land usage; each individual makes his own leasing arrangements. Few farmers own their own land. Peepeekasis uses the land allotment scheme also. Star.Blanket operates similarly to Okanese Reserve.

DRUG CENTER FAILS

An attempt by Regina citizens to set up a drug abuse treatment center failed last month due to lack of finances.

The NADA (New Approaches to Drug Abuse) treatment centre at Sacred Heart Academy, closed due to financial difficulties on Friday, Oct. 30. The youth involved are now being billetted in private homes around the city until a more suitable location can be found.

NADA is a voluntary organization to assist young people who are involved in the drug culture in finding alternatives which will enable them to deal more effectively with life.

It was incorporated this summer by a group of concerned people who felt that a plan of this nature was desperately needed in Regina.

The NADA administration is now approaching the provincial government for support. A publicity committee is also being set up to solicit assistance publicly.

The executive of NADA includes Magistrate E. E. Elliot, Rev.Jack Towers, Father Larre, Dave Sheard and Morris Shumiatcher.

Consulting and advisory services are being provided by P.C. Bennett and Dr. Saul Cohen.

The need for a supervised treatment center was demonstrated by the large number of youth who responded to the poorly-publicized, poorly equipped pilot project that NADA has been operating for the past two months.

There are now 10 teenagers involved in the NADA project, but many who applied had to be turned away. Lack of funds and public support have brought the program to a standstill.

Father Larre, in an interview with the PRAIRIE FIRE, expressed disappointment in the lack of progress of the program.

"I feel it's a shame when teenagers want and need help but there is no money to help them. We have money for law enforcement, for jails, for wardens, judges and magistrates, but when kids want help, society has no money," he said.

Father Larre went on to explain that the anticipated NADA program was to be " a two-phase program similar to the Ranch Ehrlo Project for emotionally - disturbed boys.

" The first phase would involve counselling, occupational therapy, and a free educational program.

"They would then be moved to a half-way house where they would begin community intergration."

Father Larre also emphasized the need for public and government support and added that NADA was expecting to acquire a house by the end of November. He is optimistic about the program's future and feels that once the public realizes the desperate need for a drug care center, it will provide the necessary funds.

THE WAR RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

OR HOW THE GOVERNMENT, THE UNIVERSITIES, AND BUSINESS WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPLY THE RESEARCH NEEDS OF NORTH AMERICA'S WAR MACHINE

by RAY DAVIE and CARL BEAL

The Canadian Defence Establishment and Canadian universities contribute directly to the U.S. war effort in Vietnam.

The link between the Defence Establishment, the universities, and the armaments industry in Canada is provided by the Defence Research Board (DRB).

DRB officials came to the University Regina Campus last Thursday, 13 Nov., to interview students interested in working for them.

The officials' visit was protested by about 20 students, members of the Young New Democrats and Students for a Democratic University The students sat on the floor outside the office, in the Physical Education Bldg. where the recruiting was going on.

No action was taken against the protestors, who stayed the entire day. Two of the students were roughed up by University Placement Service employees, however.

The analysis which follows will examine the work done by the DRB across Canada with regard to war research. In particular, it will deal with research projects being conducted at the University of Saskatchewan for the DRB and the implications of this research.

Canada Yearbook (1968) describes the DRB as the agency of the department of National Defence responsible for scientific research. It was created in 1947 and provides, through the Chairman, scientific advice to the Minister of National Defence, and scientific and technical assistance to the Canadian Armed Forces."

The Yearbook describes the DRB as follows:

The Board is made up of a full time chairman and vice-chairman, ex-officio members and a varying number of members selected from the universities and industry. These are appointed by the Governor and Council.

The ex-officio members are the Deputy Minister of National Defence, the president of the National Research Council, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chief of Technical Services.

The Chairman is a member of the National Research Council of Canada, and the Vice - Chairman is an associate member.

The DRB utilizes research done in universites and industry in one or more of 8 different DRB Establishments, described by the Yearbook as follows:

Defence Research Establishment, Atlantic, and Defence Research Establishment, Pacific--Research on maritime warfare is carried out at these Establishments.

Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment. This body deals with the research and development of weapons and the defence against weapons, which is carried out in co-operation with the Armed Forces at several bases. Its principal activites include defence against missiles, studies and properties of the application of infra-red and other detection devices, exploration of the upper atmosphere, and the development of rocket propellants.

The Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment deals with communications networks and problems in both war and peace time of military communications, communications satellites, etc.

The Defence Chemical, Biological and Radiation Establishment in Ottawa and the Defence Research Establishment Suffield, at Ralston, Alta., do research in atomic and chemical and biological weapons.

The Defence Research Establishment in Toronto is concerned with bio-sciences research, with chief emphasis being placed on the operating efficiency of men working in a military environment (human psychology, experimental psychology and research on clothing.)

Defence Operational Research Establishment deals with future weapons systems, tactical doctrine, etc.

Dr. A.B. Van Cleave, Dean of Graduate Studies at Regina Campus, is an example of a member of DRB by appointment. He must approve all faculty requests for funds from the DRB, the National Research Council and the Saskatchewan Research Council.

According to the *DRB Review*, 1967, grants are awarded to universities on the basis of three criteria:

1) Basic research which is supported by the DRB is expected to contribute "new scientific knowledge... applicable to the solution of a defence problem."

2) The DRB expects that grants will "develop an interest in defence science so as to maintain Canada's

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITY OF SAS
FROM THE DEFENCE

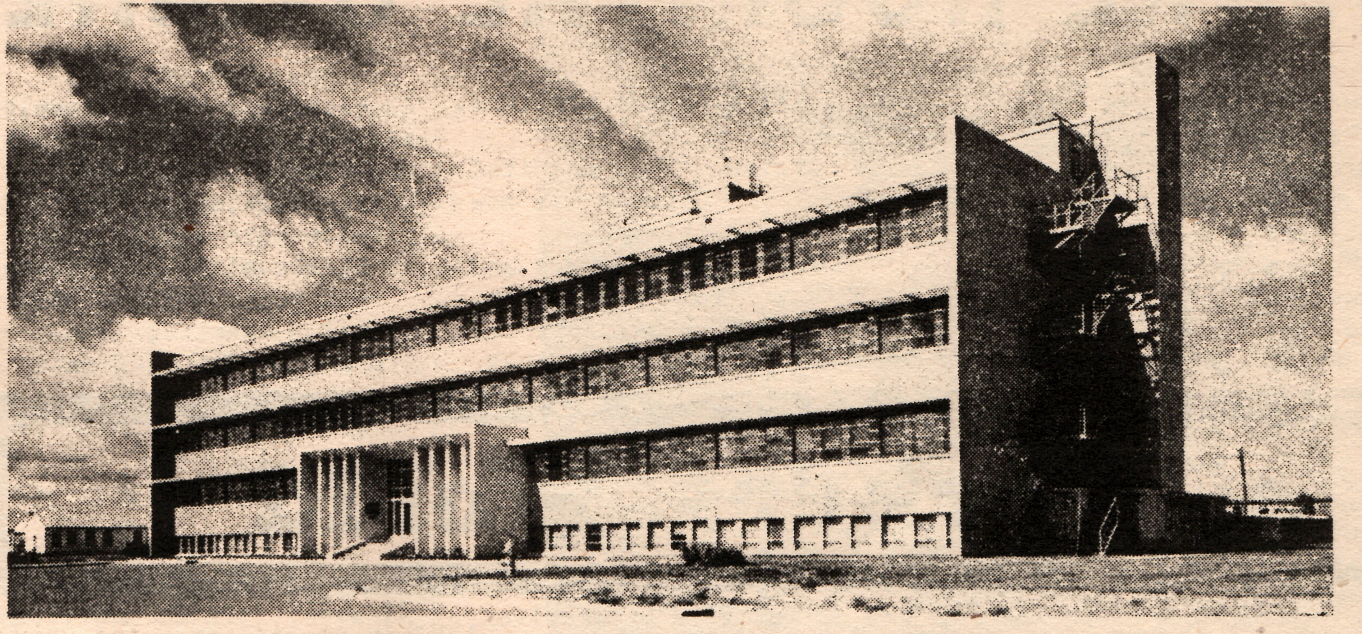
Name	Are
A. R. Knight	Rad Che
R. A. Abramovitch	Che fen
K. E. Johnson	Ele Res
J. G. Kempel	Ent Res
Althea Burton	Ent Res
S. J. Webb	Bio Res
D. D. Johnson	Tox Res
P. B. Hertz	Str ter
I. LeMay	Str ter
B. E. L. Deckker	Eng sea
P. Ukrainetz	Eng sea
A. D. Booth	Phy
J. Bradley	Phy
J. B. Gregory	Phy
P. N. Nikifonik	Phy
G. T. Hughes	Geo Res
M. S. King	Geo Res
	TO

'defence capability."

3) The DRB hopes that its grants will help recruit young scientists into the defence field.

In 1967, the DRB visited 19 schools in a recruitment campaign. Nearly 600 students were interviewed. Around 100 were actually offered employment; half that number accepted. The DRB also provided summer jobs for 38 undergraduates. (DRB Review, 1967.)

In the same year, the DRB supported 385 projects in 40 universities and colleges across Canada. In addition, support was given to university staff members who held appointments in 12 university hospitals.



DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT
SUFFIELD
of the Defence Research Board
Ralston, Alberta

The DRB Report goes on to say that more than 3 million was allocated to the DRB in 1967 for research projects. Of this amount, $1.13 million (34% of all grant funds) was granted for research in areas directly related to Chemical and Biological Warfare (CBW). Of the total of 385 grants awarded in that year, 157 (41%) were in DRB-related research.

ATCHEWAN FACULTY MEMBERS
ESEARCH BOARD

	Amt. Received
ation istry	$ 7,100
ical De- e Research	4,700
tro-Chemical arch	5,000
mological arch	3,300
mological arch	4,800
ogical arch	11,200
cology arch	5,950
cture & Ma- als Research	9,000
cture & Ma- als Research	5,300
neering Re- ch	5,600
neering Re- ch	5,000
ical Research	11,000
ical Research	12,900
ical Research	25,000
ical Research	10,000
ysical arch	2,000
ysical arch	10,000
AL THROUGH 1967:	$135,850

Of the total amount of grant funds, 4½% went to the University of Saskatchewan. The University also received 4½% of all grants awarded.

University of Saskatchewan faculty members also serve on three of the several DRB advisory committees, according to the DRB Review, 1967.

Dr. W. Kupsch serves on the "Geophysical Research Advisory Committee;" Dr. A. D. Booth is the Chairman of the "Physics Research Advisory Committee;" and Dr. G. Dempster serves on the "Panel on Infection and Immunity."

Other extra-mural activities of the DRB are directed toward industry. Support is provided to industry, according to Canada Yearbook, "With the object of promoting and strengthening the research capability of Canada's Defence Industry."

DRB grants to industry are financed on a 50-50-cost -sharing agreement. Gideon Rosenbluth, in The Canadian Economy and Disarmament, states that in 1963-64, the Defence Industrial Research Program granted $4.8 million to Defence research in industry. About $2.8 million represented matching grants and the rest represented contracts. According to the DRB Review, 1967, these cost-sharing grants are non-refundable.

The Review also notes that "The total research effort of the Defence Industrial Research Board had reached $54.5 million by the end of 1967.

The DRB is also active with research going on in NATO and the research in connection with defence agreements with Britain, Australia, and the U.S.

The research orientation of the DRB is almost identical to that of the U.S. This is partly due to the fact that a large source of funds for expenditure in the area of defence comes to Canada from the U.S.

All defence grants to industry (both Canadian and foreign-financed) are directed at improving the production of war materials.

The DRB and industry are closely linked. At least 4% of the Gross National Product of Canada is created in the area of defence. As Canada Yearbook puts it:

"Close liaison is maintained between the Defence Research Board and the Department of Defence Production to ensure that research and development activities are closely integrated with production."

Many companies producing war materials export finished goods directly to the U. S., often for use in Vietnam. This is one of the major ways in which Canada has helped the U.S. war effort.

Companies of this kind are supported generously by grants from the Defence Industrial Research Board.

As well, DRB grants for research are used to improve materials in CBW. For example, the DRB Review, 1967 notes as one of its achievements that one of its grant holders has developed a more powerful and effective variety of CS (nerve gas), an "incapacitating riot control agent." CS is already being used by the ton against the Vietnamese and against "civilian unrest" in the U.S.

Another grant holder has investigated the effects of "nerve agents" on the pupil of the eye. This is supposed to allow our own soldiers to perform better on after-dark missions, though it is well known that slightly larger doses of "nerve agents" can cause blindness.

Other grant holders investigate the transmission of diseases. In 1967, one of the largest grant holders--at the University of Saskatchewan--S.J. Webb, began investigating "the influence of genetic changes on the stability of airborne microbes."

This research could be instrumental in solving one of the basic technical problems in the use of biological weaponry--the life span of certain bacteria in the atmosphere (i.e., how long infectious bacteria will remain dangerous once released into the air). This must be determined precisely before these weapons can be used.

If this could be accomplished through research, it would be invaluable to both the U.S. and Canadian war machines.

NATO, NORAD and other Defence sharing arrangements indicate a growing continental military-industrial complex. The DRB's support of industrial research indicates the importance of the military and industrial alliance in Canada.

The export of war products by Canadian industry for use by the U.S. military and the U.S. military's support of Canada's own defence establishment provide additional evidence of Canada's role in this continental military establishment.

Thses facts also indicate Canada's role in wars like the one the U.S. is fighting against the Vietnamese.

Canada is not involved in war research solely for her own defence. Canadian war research is currently killing, maiming and paralyzing Vietnamese, as well as defoliating their countryside. The DRB is a central part of this establishment, and jeopardizes the self-determination of the Canadian people.

MORE HOSPITAL STRIKES LIKELY

Hospital workers in three Saskatchewan cities recently indicated their willingness to strike if wage settlements are not reached.

The major roadblock to agreements in the three cities has been the general financial crisis which hospitals all over the province are facing.

A strike by 90 hospital workers in Estevan is now entering its third week.

Employees in Weyburn and North Battleford have returned affirmative strike votes to their union executives.

At Victoria Union Hospital in Prince Albert, the 160 members of Local 84 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees were scheduled to go on strike at 11 p.m. Sunday.

Contracts for non-professional hospital employees expired at the beginning of this year. Negotiations continued for nine months. Workers are now demanding settlements based on the recommendation of the conciliation board set up for the Estevan hospital disputes.

This board unanimously recommended an 8.4 % average wage increase in each of the next two years for the Estevan employees -- orderlies, nurses' aides, clerk typists, boiler men and kitchen staff.

According to Opposition Leader Woodrow Lloyd, Estevan hospital management has been informed by provincial authorities that no additional budgetary grants in excess of 6% of the hospital's budget will be made for wage increases.

Even if the conciliation board requested emergency compulsory arbitration legislation, and even if the arbitration board returned the same recommendation as the conciliation board, the provincial government would still not provide sufficient funds to allow the hospitals to implement the recommendation.

" With this kind of ultimatum from the senior government," said Mr. Lloyd, "who is the board to negotiate with ? Indeed, how can the board negotiate at all ?"

Hospitals may be forced to raise the necessary money themselves. This would involve either cutting services or asking the municipalities to bear the cost--taking the funds from the community.

On the other hand, if the provincial government took responsibility for the wage increases, it would receive a 50% reimbursement from the federal government.

According to Gordon Quale provincial representative of the CUPE, support for the Estevan strike is "wonderful --it's a popular strike."

"Moral and financial support have been received from several other unions in the area," he said.

· Workers World ·

by ELWIN JACKSON

Working in a service station is one of the fastest ways I can think of to meet a fairly complete cross-section of people.

As well as the staff, the number of customers that you meet in a day is bound to expose you to a large number of different personalities.

As I see it, customers can be divided into two main groups. First are the type of people who are easy to get along with and are nice to work for. Unfortunately, these people are rather rare.

Possibly one fifth of all the customers I have met are of this type.

The second division is, of course, made up of those people who are not as easy to get along with. These are the perfectionists -- not in their own work, but in yours. Their windshield must be glistening clean; their oil, battery water, radiator water, and transmission fluid must be checked, and the tire pressure must be exact.

To check these things occasionally is fine, but when you start going over these things twice a week for one certain customer, things are getting a bit ridiculous. To make matters worse, some people make you do all these things each time they come in for their customary two dollars worth of gas.

Blow in the tire, too, buddy ?

This, I think, generally covers most people who come into gas stations. There are always, though, those who completely stand in a class of their own.

One example of this is the guy that says, "Fill 'er up," and means so full that you couldn't get another drop in with a shoehorn, but blows up if even half a drop finds its way to the ground.

. I think that anyone who has worked in a garage will agree that those wierd people. the customers. are the hardest part of the job.

The guys who have to deal with this rowdy cross-section of humanity, the staff, are stratified themselves, naturally. At the top of the heap is, of course, the boss.

The boss' function at the station is to run around screaming and swearing and kicking tails, trying to get something done. In the middle of the act, a customer walks in. Immediately, the boss has to change his role from that of an enraged tyrant to that of a mild-mannered servant of the people.

To do this without leaving the customer with the impression that he is a two-faced dog is quite a trick. Therefore,the boss' job is a tough one.

The middle rung of the social and economic ladder is filled by the mechanics. These grimy-pawed wrench-benders are quite a bunch.

As a group, mechanics strike me as independent and very, very fussy. If they don't feel like working, they slack off all day long; try to hurry them up, though and they'll likely slack off for about a week, just to spite you.

This is all safely done, though, since mechanics,good or bad, are hard to find and harder to hire.

When I say that mechanics are fussy, I refer to their habit of treasuring their tools. If you happen to have reason to borrow one of their wrenches, you had better make very certain that it is returned clean, and to the exact spot that it came from.

Finally comes the lowest from of life in a service station -- according to the boss and mechanics, that is. These are the people who play many roles during their work hours at the service station.

They are a combination of whipping boy, grease monkey gas jockey, oil checker, window washer and floor sweeper. (If the reader detects a note of bitterness in the previous sentances, he can likely guess what my job at the station was.)

As I see it, the underdog of the gas station can make his job just as hard as he pleases. If the boss finds out that he is taking it pleasantly easy, though, he won't be pumping gas much longer. It is hard, though, to slave at your own job,and probably someone else's too but still draw the bare minimum wage with very little chance of a raise.

It seems however that this is a common complaint of all service station attendants and must be taken merely as part of the job.

In a service station, the relations between the boss and the rest of the staff seem to be fairly simple.The boss is the man with the pay cheque and must be happy with your owrk. He is the guy to go to with problems and complaints. In short, he is the guy that controls your work and your life at work -- and you better remember it.

Customer-staff relations are an altogether different thing, yet they are related. To get a customer to come back to a service station,he has to be happy with your work and your products. It is the job of the employee to satisfy his every whim, ridiculous or not, to assure him that his car is getting the best of care, and to make him feel that your products are superior to everyone else's.

Since there are only two kinds of gas and one kind of oil in Saskatchewan -- under many names, of course -- this job is often difficult. It must, however, be done.

Making the customer happy is by far the most difficult job in a gas station. Even if he takes his frustrations out on you and tries to cheat you, you must smile, be nice and do a good job.

Occasionally, though, accidents do happen, and for some reason, it is usually to the guy that has been giving everyone at the garage a hard time. Any further detail on this subject might be incriminating.

I hope that by this short paper, I have given the reader insight into what goes on under the surface of your friendly neighborhood service station.

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PROFIT PLANNED REGINA

By GISELE TOUPIN

(The following is an alalysis of the development of the City of Regina -- how it came to be arranged the way it is.)

The Queen City of the Plains is the result of almost a century of ruthless profiteering by big businesses and businessmen; a century of back-stabbing and legislation-juggling in the search for ever-large profits.

There was little indication, as late as 1870, of the battle of the politicians, railraoders and real estate giants to be waged on the Regina Plains. Till then decisions on locations of townsites were settled simply by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

As the CPR pushed westward, townsites had to be established along its route. Choosing these locations was simple, for the most part--the CPR did it.

But Regina was unique in this process.

Many speculators recognized a necessity -- a capital had to be chosen for the North West Territories and a number of people decided to have a hand in dividing up the spoils.

The first speculators who came west invested in land around the Regina area on the basis of the original railway survey of 1881. It placed the path of the railway five or six miles south of the present city site.

One of those who wanted in on things was Territorial Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney.

In 1882, Dewdney -- the man with the sole right to establish the site of the territorial capital -- made an agreement with the federal government which reserved for him the land south of the present Dewdney Avenue and east of Pasqua St.

Suddenly, the rail route was changed. It would now run through Dewdney's holdings. The Lieutenant-Governor had also formed a syndicate with 10 other men to buy 28 sections of land from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Their holdings were the only land not already owned by the federal government and the CPR.

The railroad said it would share only with the federal government -- the real estate battle with the syndicate was on.

The first skirmish was over location of the railroad station. Town planning and transportation limitations of the day dictated the town's business section -- the most lucrative real estate --would be close to the station.

The CPR built the station on their land -- two miles from Dewdney's parcels.

Dewdney and syndicate, deprived of the station, began a campaign to attract investment (i.e., prosperous business firms) to their land.

But the government and the railroad had a valuable ally in W. B. Scarth, managing director of the North West Land Company, caretakers of their land holdings in the area.

Scarth convinced the government to locate major public buildings near the railway to counteract the syndicate's campaign.

No sooner said than done. There was a lot of valuable real estate at stake.

The Lieutenant-Governor's residence, the territorial legislative building, the Customs Office, the Dominion Lands Office and the Post Office Building were all placed parallel, and near, the rail line.

But the placements had been diplomatic: some of the public buildings were actually located in Dewdney's territory.

They placated some of the rivalry between Dewdney and Scarth. The two land barons agreed to co-operate to a certain extent rather than compete.

That is, they would cooperate, but it would still be for their own good. They paid little attention to future needs of the city.

In his book, Regina - The Queen City, C. G. Drake said the outcome of the public buildings' location satisfied both sides, but the final agreements "paid scant attention to elementary sense in town planning."

Not only was the original site ill-planned for actual urban settlement, but it "offered insu-ficient water, poor drainage, no sheltering hills, and no timber for fuel, construction or shade.

"Township trustees," headed by Scarth, "had as their primary objective, to make the greatest possible profit out of land sales," Drake says.

"Any interest in developing Regina as a pleasant community was incidental."

In 1882, the trustees divided the area into 50-foot lots. This initiated a series of new real estate battles among groups competing to buy or rent choice property from the original owners. Again there was little or no planning in the piecemeal dividing up of the township.

By 1911, the process was well-entrenched.

"A city was taking shape, but it was not doing so according to any comprehensive plan.

"City Council, a majority of whom had real estate interests, did not exhibit any noticeable concern over the lack of town planning."

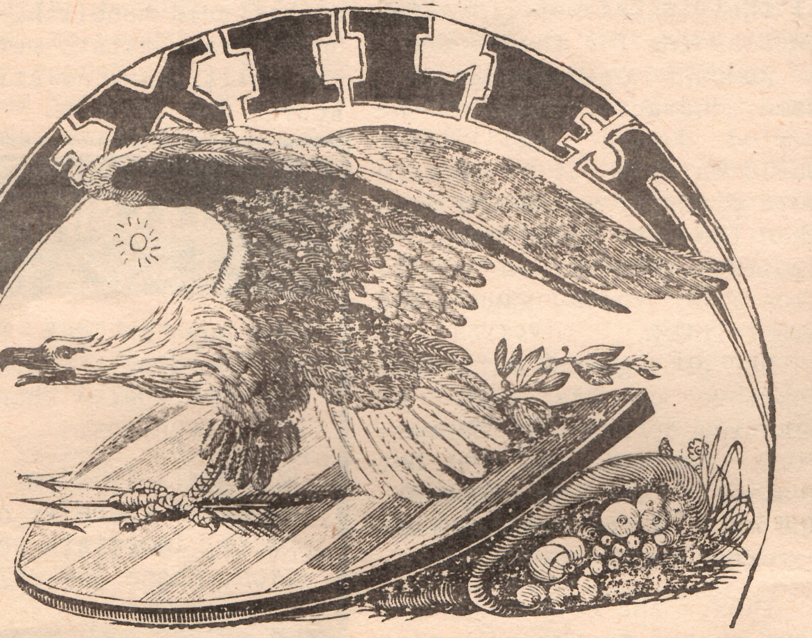
C. B. McCallum - a founder of McCallum, Hill & Co., then Regina's largest real estate firm -- was a member of the 1912 Council.

McCallum had begun a housing development encompassing nearly all the residential property south of Victoria Avenue, west of Albert Street and north of College Avenue: the site of much of present-day downtown Regina.

By 1905, his firm owned the land south of Wascana Creek and had subdivided and developed it. A great portion of this land was sold to the new provincial government as the site for the Legislative buildings and parks.

In 1912, the company built the present McCallum-Hill Building and several

(continued pg. 8)



(The EXILES column which appears in The PRAIRIE FIRE is written by former U.S. servicemen now living in Regina. They are members of the Regina Committee of American Deserters.)

On Thurs., Nov. 6, 1969, Bill Parrott, an American deserter residing in Regina, received a threatening letter through the mail.

The letter was sent to the address of the Regina Committee of American Deserters, postmarked "U.S. Navy" and was signed, "Sgt. Norton HQ. CO. HQ. Bn. (PC&AO), 2nd Mar. Div., Camp LeJeune, North Carol., 28542." The letter read as follows:

"Parrott,

"Start running now, cause I know where you're at. So you'd better look damned close over your shoulder at everyone. If I don't get you, the FBI will. Never leave a picture of yourself when you are a deserter on the run. Canada won't hold you safe forever. The Marines have easy ways of seeing that the scum of the earth is taken care of. You don't know me but (sic) you should,soon enough.

"If you like have some of your chicken-shit draft dodgers and cowards with you, as the boys always like a little excitement. Marines always do.

"If I were you I wouldn't come back to the States, cause time is running out for you. Try me if you think it's a joke. The only joke is on you.

"Your dead.

--Sgt. Norton
etc."

Ex-specialist-4 Parrott stated that a person named Sgt. Norton was reached by telephone at Camp LeJeune and that this person admitted writing the letter which is reproduced above.

Reports of similar harassment of American deserters are common across Canada. We do not know of particular incidents which have been publicized before this time, but it is the intention of the Regina Committee of American Deserters to reveal each and every case in the future.

The type of thinking manifested in Sgt. Norton's letter, and his reference to the Marine Corps' "esprit de corps" ("the boys always like a little excitement"), are not confined to Sgt. Norton. U.S. military indoctrination plays on racism and hatred, thus creating a mass organization of irrational professional killers.

There are increasing numbers of young men who react to this type of indoctrination negatively and who resist by organizing within the armed forces or by deserting. But military harassment doesn't end when the deserter comes to Canada, as Sgt. Norton's letter reveals.

We hope that the Canadian public will join with us in resisting any attempts to carry out these threats against American deserters and draft resisters who are now living in Canada.

PROTEST vs STATUS QUO

A three-day seminar on "Protest vs. the Status Quo" will be held on Regina Campus starting Friday.

The seminar, based on the assumption that conflict, where possible, should be resolved in discussion rather than in the streets, will feature as main speaker Mr. Harry Magdoff, a Marxist economist from New York.

Speaking for the status quo will be Ralph King, manager of a garment company in Winnipeg.

The debate between Mr. Magdoff and Mr. King will start off the weekend.

It will be held Friday at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the new Education Building on the Main Campus.

Saturday morning in the Classroom Building on the New Campus, discussions on protest and education, protest respecting Indians and Metis, workers and status quo, are scheduled, with speakers from Regina leading the discussions.

Saturday afternoon discussions will centre around political radicalism, law and morality, women versus the male establishment, and farmers versus big business.

The weekend seminas are sponsored by the Plain Talk series.

The public is invited, and admission is free.

community calendar

TUESDAY, NOV. 18:

All-Saints Tea and bazaar, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 142 Massey Rd.

Members of the Black Panther Party will be speaking at the New Campus at 12:30 p.m.

A Drug Symposium will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 in Rm. C-1 at the New Campus.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19:

Noon-hour films at the Central Library, 12:15 p.m: "European Tapestry," "Dance Squared" and "The Shepherd."

"Flea Market" at the Knox Metropolitan Church begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 20:

Il Teatro, University of Saskatchewan Drama Dep't., presents "The Three Cuckolds" in the Fine Arts Auditorium, Old Campus. All seats reserved: $1.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21:

Western United Church presents a travelogue titled "Britany via the Channel Islands" at 8:00 p.m. in the Cameron St. Auditorium. 50¢.

A three-day Institute sponsored by the Plain Talk series at the University -- "Protest vs. the Status Quo" with Harry Magdoff, noted economist, and Ralph E. King of Canadian Garment Ltd., in Manitoba. Beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Education Auditorium, New Campus.

Il Teatro continues at the Fine Arts Auditorium.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22:

Children's stories and films at branch libraries begin at 10:30 a.m. A preschool story hour begins at 10 a.m.

Regina Wind Quintet presents a program titled "Canadian Chamber Music" at 8:30 p.m. in the Central Library Story Room.

St. Andrews United Church (Athol & Dewdney) will hold a Highland Dancing competition beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For Reel Film Society begins at 8:30 p.m. with "The Loved One" and shorts.

Final night of Il Teatro at the Fine Arts Auditorium.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23:

A film "The East is Red" will be shown at the Broadway Theatre at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The film describes China today. Admission is $1.

NOVEMBER 15-22:

Young Canada's Book Week, with displays of children's books and other reading materials at the Central Library.

Profit

(Continued from P. 7)

other commercial premises in the downtown area.

With McCallum on Council, city planners that year began to divide the original 50-foot lots in half, compounding the initial overcrowding situation.

With little or no regulation of subdivision schemes, narrow streets and lots, and improperly-planned facilities, were the almost inevitable result.

Government and real estate interests again reaped large profits, but little of their gains were invested in planning for the future.

Rampant speculation became characteristic of the period during and after World War I. It is certain more property was being sold than the city could possibly provide with service facilities like roads, sewers and electricity.

The city gained a partial reprieve on its lack of planning during the Depression. Capital was just not available for development, and much of the real estate reverted to the city.

Thus, the city had a cecond chance to properly plan use of its land.

But the chance was too short-lived.

The return of speculation in the late Thirties, while funds available to the city were still low, necessitated spending those funds on facilities for major land development projects and large office buildings. These were often constructed without even basic concepts of town planning being used.

By the end of the Second World War, the situation was serious enough that city planners gave considerable civic supervision to further expansion. But in many areas it was too late.

In the 1960's the results of 80 years of profiteering pockmark the city.

The population is approaching 150,000, but it's a scattered monolith, carved up by real estate merchants and politicians, victim of a search for dollars.

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Good buy on 1965 Ford 2-door hardtop, automatic, low mileage. Phone 536-8805, evenings.

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